Chinar Wildlife sanctuary in Kerala

4095. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA:
SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL *alias* MEEM AFZAL:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that neolithic (stone age) 'dolmens' i.e. burin caves in the middle of Marayoor Sandalwood forest in the Chinar Wild Life Sanctuary in district Idukki (Kerala) are being dug up by granite exporters;

(b) whether it is a fact that 'dolmens' have been listed by the Archaeological Survey of India as ancient man-made structure;

(c) whether it is a fact that these ancient structures are held sacred by Tribals and Hindus alike;

(d) whether it is a fact that Gramite-mining is destroying stone-age architechtural remains and also running the sensitive ecology of the area; and

(e) if so, what immediate steps Government are taking in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (d) State Government has reported that no mining activity is being allowed in the Sanctuary.

(b) State Government of Kerala has reported that dolmens in Idukki District of Kerala and the site at Marayur village are not centrally protected as monuments under the provisions of Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958 (Central Act). However, the pre-historic caves in Marayur are protected as Monuments under the provisions of Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains, Kerala Act, 1963. Dolmens in Marayur and in other parts of Idukki District in Kerala are Megalithic Monuments belonging to Iron Age.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Environmental Degradation in Himachal Pradesh

4096. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA:
SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the environmental degradation in Himachal Pradesh caused by the Cement Industry categorised as one of the highest polluting Industry;

(b) whether Government are also aware that huge cement plant besides a number of miniplants are proposed to be set up in the State at a time when the State is ravaged with environmental pollution; and

(c) if so, in what manner Government propose to deal with the environmental pollution in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (c) The Central Government in cooperation with the Central Pollution Control Board and the Himachal Pradesh State Pollution Control Board is constantly monitoring the control of highly polluting industries including Cement.

The Government have costituted a Committee for examining the environmental impact of proposed cement industries and related mining activities in Himachal Pradesh. The Committee has examined and cleared one Cement Plant subject to certain con-

ditions and environmental safeguards. All industries in the Himachal Pradesh have been directed to comply with prescribed standards within a time frame.

Incidents of Poaching by very influential people

4097. SHRI SOM PAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that two detailed reports that have appeared in the Indian Express of 3rd February, 1993 and 22nd February, 1993 on incidents of poaching by very influential people;

(b) if so, what are the details of these incidents;

(c) what are the names of the persons, who have indulged in this highly illicit activity; and

(d) what action has been taken by Government against the persons involved therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) The report of 3rd February deals with illegal landing of helicopter in Corbett Tiger Reserve while the report of 22nd February deals with a review of Project Tiger areas. The linkage of any poaching by influential people in these reports are not yet established.

(b) The incidences of illegal landings were noted in April, 1991 and in October and December of 1992.

(c) and (d) A case against illegal landing of helicopter in Corbett Tiger Reserve by the India International Airways Private Limited has been instituted by the State Government. This Ministry has also taken up the matter with the State Government for early action in the case.

राष्ट्रीय पर्यावरण न्यायाधिकरण का गठन

4098. **श्री अजीत जोगी :**
श्री छोटू भाई पटेल :

क्या **पर्यावरण और वन** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या राष्ट्रीय पर्यावरण न्यायाधिकरण के गठन का प्रस्ताव काफी लंबे समय से लंबित है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो यह कब से लंबित है तथा इसके क्या कारण हैं ; और

(ग) उक्त न्यायाधिकरण का गठन कब तक किये जाने की संभावना है?

पर्यावरण और वन मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री कमलनाथ) : (क) से (ग) किसी परिसंकटमय पदार्थ की उठाई-धराई के समय होने वाली किसी दुर्घटना से होने वाली क्षतियों के लिये बड़ा दायित्व निर्धारित करने और इस प्रकार की दुर्घटना से उत्पन्न मामलों के प्रभावी और शीघ्र निपटान के लिये राष्ट्रीय पर्यावरण अधिकरण की स्थापना करने के लिये 18 अगस्त, 1992 को लोक सभा में एक विधेयक पुरःस्थापित किया गया जिसका उद्देश्य व्यक्तियों, संपत्ति और पर्यावरण को हुई क्षति के लिये राहत और मुआवजे का व्यवस्था करना है ।

पर्यावरण के क्षेत्र में सहयोग के लिये जापान के साथ समझौता

4099. **श्री अजीत जोगी :**
श्री छोटू भाई पटेल :

क्या **पर्यावरण और वन** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार ने पर्यावरण के क्षेत्र में तथा अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय पर्यावरण संबंधी मामलों में सहयोग करने के लिये जापान से कोई समझौता किया है ;